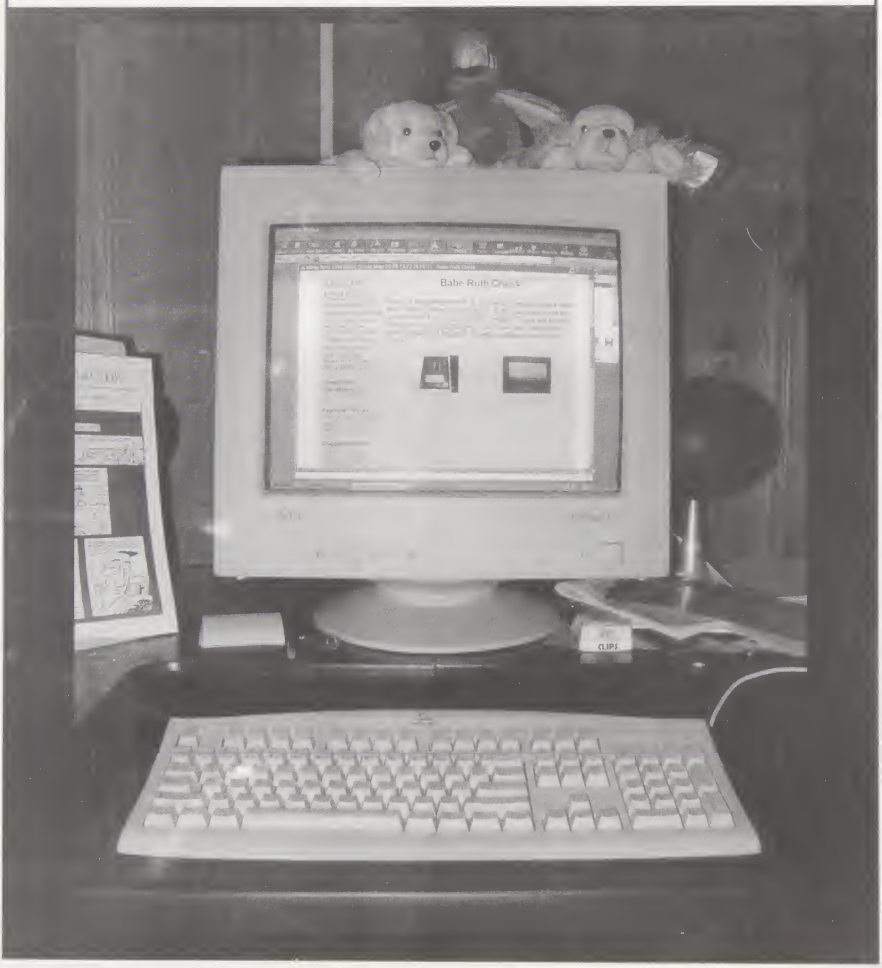
THE CHECK COLLECTOR

April-June 2000 **The Journal of** Number 54
THE AMERICAN SOCIETY OF CHECK COLLECTORS, INC.



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To our members:

Write something for *The Check Collector*! We need articles about checks, check-related subjects, and fiscal documents. See the list of 52 areas of collecting interests on the inside back of the mailing cover for ideas.

We return all material. Illustrations require an **original** or a **good, clear, black and white copy, preferably as large as can be obtained**. Original checks sent in are copied and returned carefully. Any questions, ask the Editor!

To our advertisers.

Deadline for advertising copy to run in the July-September issue of *The Check Collector* is August 30.

The Check Collector is an effective means of reaching the check collecting hobby, and our membership of collectors and dealers in checks and related financial documents. It contains feature articles about checks and check collecting and news about the hobby.

Advertising orders must be paid in advance and shall be restricted to checks and related fiscal documents, publications, accessories, and supplies. The ASCC accepts advertising in good faith, reserving the right to edit copy. Copy for ads must be camera ready or the Editor will set it as best he can.

ASCC assumes no financial responsibility for typographical errors in advertising. However, it will reprint that portion of an advertisement in which a typographical error appeared upon prompt notification of such error.

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The cover is taken from a digital photograph of the monitor and keyboard of the computer where *The Check Collector* is put together. The screen shows part of an auction page for a check signed by Babe Ruth. (No, the Editor did not bid on it. The page was chosen more or less at random to illustrate the article beginning on page 4 - Checks on the Internet)

Advertising rates are as follows:
One quarter page $25.00/issue
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$10 discount for four issues paid at once.

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Checks on the Internet

by Bob Hohertz

In several of the last issues of *The Check Collector* I have filled in pages with some items from my collection under the heading "A Find on the Internet," a takeoff on the time-honored filler called "A Find in the Marketplace." Each of these has been found on the internet, and purchased there. Although it was not mentioned in the article, the new RN discovery check discussed in the October-December 1999 issue was also purchased on the internet, as was the Wells, Fargo and Company express receipt illustrated on page 7 of the January-March 2000 issue.

eBay

The items mentioned above came from different sources, but all were purchased through bidding on eBay, the giant internet auction venue. There are other auction sites in operation as well, but I have never bid on anything listed in them. To the best of my knowledge, most will not have checks or other fiscal paper available at most times. This situation could change as more sellers explore the opportunities they offer.

eBay is not an auction house, in any sense of the word. Every item on it is offered by individual sellers, who list their own wares and are responsible for collecting from the buyers and shipping to the buyers. There is a modest listing fee and a small percentage charge if a listed item is sold. Anyone can sign up to be a bidder or a seller so long as they can supply a credit card number and do not violate the rather loose rules promulgated by eBay.

Under current practices, eBay auctions end at precise times, and the item being auctioned generally must be sold to the high bidder at the final bid level. (Sometimes an auction is designated as having a reserve, so there is no obligation to either the bidder or the seller unless that reserve is met; otherwise a contract to buy and sell is established.) If a bid is placed it must be higher than the current high bid that shows on the auction page by at least one bidding increment. It is possible to place a proxy bid higher than one increment, which will be activated only when other bids are placed. In fact, if the existing high bidder has left a proxy bid, even though you may bid over their current level, they may remain high unless you bid more than their proxy.

The combination of proxy bidding with a time-limit auction makes the strategy of bidding a bit different from that of a live auction, where the person who keeps his or her hand up longest wins the lot. There is the strategy of placing a high proxy bid, the absolute maximum you would pay, figuring that if you are eventually outbid the buyer paid more for it than you wanted to anyway. Another strategy is to bid within seconds of the end of the auction, when other bidders do not have time to react, and hope that the level of that bid is high enough to overcome any proxy bid that may be placed on the item. The reader can work out the strategic implications of not showing that one is interested in an item until the last seconds - not all of which are favorable.

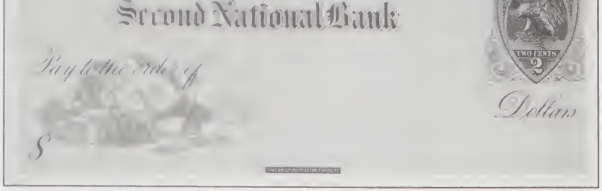


Figure 1. This unused American Phototype check bearing an RN B10, the red imprint, was acquired through eBay. Although it is damaged, it is a from a user not listed for this particular imprint in the Castenholz **Field Guide to Revenue Stamped Paper** for New York. The underprinting is a yellow-tan.

eBay has millions of items listed at any one time, most of which will not be of any interest to the check collector. The site has a capability of searching for the word "check" in the title of an auction, or in the description of an item as well, but this must be used with caution. Thousands of sellers must believe that more buyers will look at their items if they put "Check this out!" or "Check it out!" or "Check the scan!" as part of their title. There are others who include "Checks accepted" or "Checks, MC, VISA" there. There are auctions for check protectors, check lists, sound checks, "Check Your Oil," "Reality Check," and something called "Dunston Checks In," whatever that may be. It is possible to eliminate titles including certain words, so I always exclude "it, that these, them, oil," and a number of other words. I also do not search on descriptions at all for checks, as too many sellers, some of whom have checks for sale, talk about accepting personal checks in their descriptions.

Once I have eliminated the bulk of the things that I can without exceeding the space allotted for words to avoid, I am left with about twenty pages (thirty to fifty items per page) of items that have "check" in the title and three or four pages of items that mention "checks." Figure 3 on the following page shows part of such a listing for "check." You will notice that several of the items that remain are for sewing material, and one is for a camera, but most of the lots could be of interest to a check collector.

The URL for eBay is http://www.ebay.com

Figure 2. This handsome draft printed by the National Bank Note Company appeared on eBay in the late summer of 1999. It bears an RN C1 imprinted revenue, and is also not listed in the Midwestern volume of the **Field Guide to Revenue Stamped Paper.**

Other Sites

Here are the addresses of several auction sites. Many of their listed items are stocks and bonds, and some checks may be found there on occasion.

http://www.stockandbondauction.com
http://www.scottwinslow.com

In addition, some checks show up in auctions held by Eric Jackson and James Reeves. Their URLs are:

http://www.ericjackson.com
http://www.jamesjreeves.com

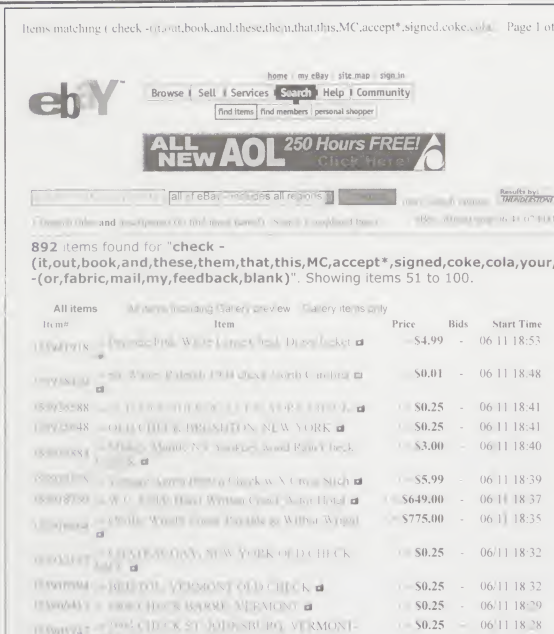

Items matching (check -(it,out,book,and,these,them,that,this,MC,accept*,signed,coke,cola,... Page 1 of 3
home | my eBay | site map | sign in
Browse | Sell | Services | Search | Help | Community
Find Items | Find members | personal shopper
ALL NEW AOL 250 Hours FREE! Click here
all of eBay - includes all regions
892 items found for "check -(it,out,book,and,these,them,that,this,MC,accept*,signed,coke,cola,your,o -(or,fabric,mail,my,feedback,blank)". Showing items 51 to 100.
All items
Item#
Item
Price
Bids
Start Time
$4.99 - 06/11 18:53
$0.01 - 06/11 18:48
$0.25 - 06/11 18:41
$0.25 - 06/11 18:41
$3.00 - 06/11 18:40
$5.99 - 06/11 18:39
$649.00 - 06/11 18:37
$775.00 - 06/11 18:35
$0.25 - 06/11 18:32
$0.25 - 06/11 18:32
$0.25 - 06/11 18:29
$0.25 - 06/11 18:28
$175.00 - 06/11 18:28
$0.25 - 06/11 18:28
$0.25 - 06/11 18:27
$0.25 - 06/11 18:27
$5.95 - 06/11 18:21

Figure 3. Part of the second page of a search for the word "check" in the auction title on eBay. A number of words were eliminated to cut out common terms like "Check it out," some checks being sold primarily as autographs, cola checks, and phrases such as "The Check is in the Mail." This section of the search results actually has more collectible checks than many other areas, which is why it was chosen for an illustration. There are still several items with checked fabric and one "Graph Check" camera in the results. The "price" shown is the opening bid wanted, and as these are very new listings, none shows any bids yet. The sunrise symbol at the left means it is a new listing that day, and the camera symbol at the right signifies that there is a picture of the item on the auction page itself.

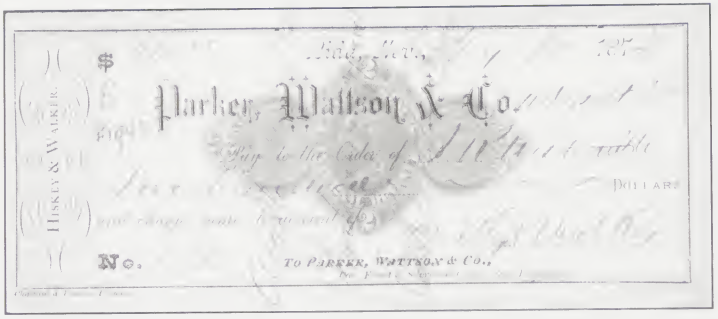


Figure 4. Another find on eBay: a check from Lida, Nevada, bearing an RN D1 revenue imprint. This is one of two that the seller put up for auction on successive weeks. He claimed that there were no others, to his knowledge.

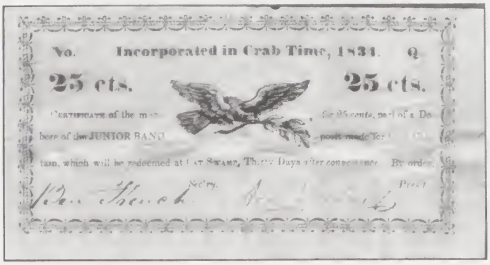
With items such as these, if one is not the winning bidder it is often worthwhile to ask the seller if there are any more. Occasionally there are, and the seller may be willing to sell them directly for a net price.

The ASCC site

Our Secretary, Coleman Leifer, put up a website for us about a year ago. It gives membership information, allows anyone interested to print out an application, shows two or three items from the latest issues of TCC and lists the contents, and gives a short course in the types of documents that are usually found in a check collection. If you have web access and have not visited the site, you may enjoy doing so. The address is:

http://members.aol.com/asccinfo

A Find on the Internet

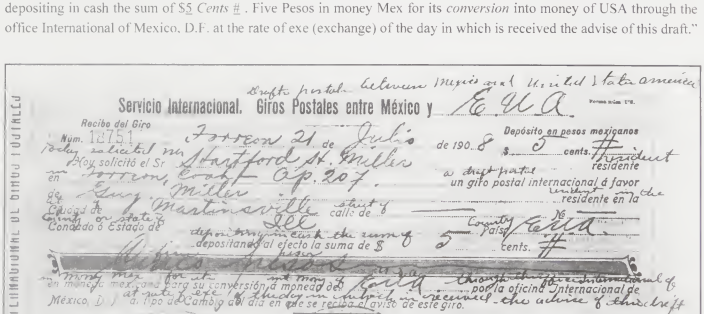


Ok - any idea what *this* is? Incorporated in Crab Time, 1834 - payable at Cat Swamp thirty days *after convenience*? A certificate purchased as a fund-raiser for the Junior Band, with a bit of 1830's humor?

A Mexican International Postal Money Order

by Neil Sowards

While visiting a fellow dealer, I spotted a small stack of foreign notes. Going through it I found what I judged to be a Mexican International Postal Money Order. I asked to buy it but was disappointed to learn the lot had already been sold. I then learned this draft had been figured at 25 cents! I offer $5 and the dealer said he would ask his customer if he wished to sell one item for what he was paying for the whole lot. Weeks later I became the owner of the draft. It is in Spanish but has contemporary translation in English written about the Spanish. The English with some obvious *Spanish* reads, *"International Service.* Draft postal between Mexico and United States (of) America *Deposito en pesos mexicanos* $ 5 cents # . Today solicited Mr. Hartford St. Miller resident in Torreon, Coah (Coahuila) Pat 20 F a draft postal *internacional a favor de* Guy Miller resident in the *Cuidad* of Martinsville street of ---- No ---- County or state of Ill Country *EUA* depositing in cash the sum of $5 *Cents* # . Five Pesos in money Mex for its *conversion* into money of USA through the office International of Mexico, D.F. at the rate of exe (exchange) of the day in which is received the advise of this draft."

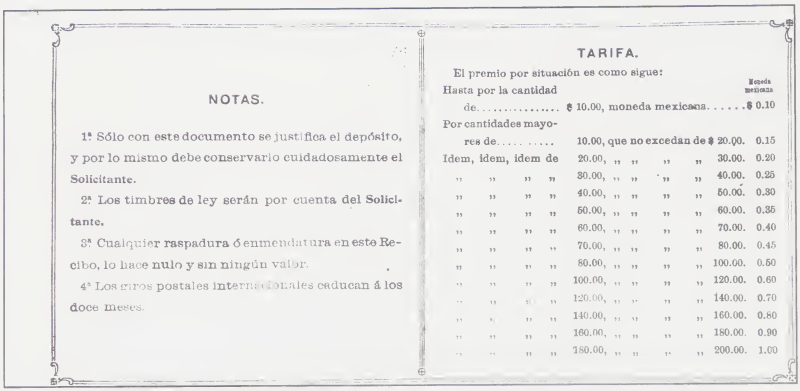


It is signed by the Administrator which looks like Gouralo G. Mesa. It is stamped with a postal stamp dated Jul 12, 1909 and a 1908-1909 revenue stamp of 3 centavos is affixed and canceled.

The reverse gives the Tariff rate for these drafts starting with 10 centavos for 10 pesos or less and gradually decreasing to ½ of one percent on 200 pesos.

There is no sign of cancellation so apparently it was sent to Martinsville, Illinois but was never cashed. One wonders if the post office in Martinsville even knew how to cash it or send it for collection. Five pesos was close to five dollars at that time. Five dollars was a good day's pay for many people in that day. At that time the Mexican pesos contained .7859 troy ounces of silver while the U. S silver dollar had .7734 troy ounces.

Such drafts are uncommon as most were cashed and apparently later destroyed, so only uncashed drafts are available to collectors. The Mexican state of Coahuila borders Texas and Torreon is on its opposite border next to Durango. Martinsville is just south of the old national highway in Clark County, a county that borders Indiana. A recent Rand McNally lists it as having 1161 people.



NOTAS.

1ª Sólo con este documento se justifica el depósito, y por lo mismo debe conservarlo cuidadosamente el Solicitante.

2ª Los timbres de ley serán por cuenta del Solicitante.

3ª Cualquier raspadura ó enmendatura en este Recibo, lo hace nulo y sin ningún valor.

4ª Los giros postales internacionales caducan á los doce meses.

TARIFA.

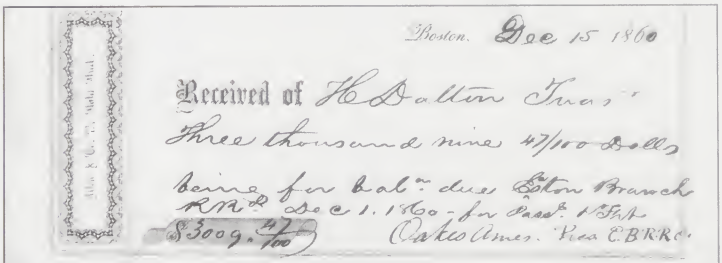
El premio por situación es como sigue:

		Moneda mexicana
Hasta por la cantidad de.....	$ 10.00, moneda mexicana.....	$ 0.10
Por cantidades mayores de.....	10.00, que no excedan de $ 20.00.	0.15
Idem, idem, idem de	20.00, „ „ „ „ 30.00.	0.20
„ „ „ „	30.00, „ „ „ „ 40.00.	0.25
„ „ „ „	40.00, „ „ „ „ 50.00.	0.30
„ „ „ „	50.00, „ „ „ „ 60.00.	0.35
„ „ „ „	60.00, „ „ „ „ 70.00.	0.40
„ „ „ „	70.00, „ „ „ „ 80.00.	0.45
„ „ „ „	80.00, „ „ „ „ 100.00.	0.50
„ „ „ „	100.00, „ „ „ „ 120.00.	0.60
„ „ „ „	120.00, „ „ „ „ 140.00.	0.70
„ „ „ „	140.00, „ „ „ „ 160.00.	0.80
„ „ „ „	160.00, „ „ „ „ 180.00.	0.90
„ „ „ „	180.00, „ „ „ „ 200.00.	1.00

Letter to the Editor

Dear Mr. Hohertz

I recently purchased a group of old railroad checks and came across an interesting autograph. It's a receipt from the Easton Branch Railroad signed by Oakes Ames, the president of the railroad. According to the Sanders Price Guide to Autographs this autograph is worth between $100 for a cut signature to $2,250 for a signed railroad document. I thought you might want to put it in the next Check Collector.

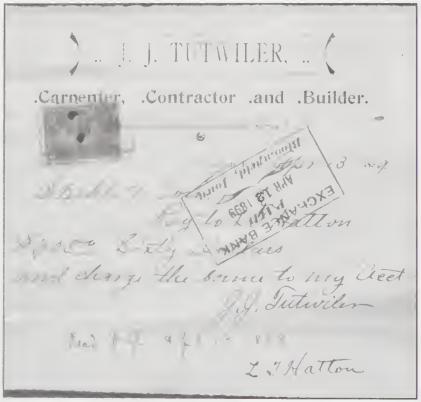

Boston. Dec 15 1860
Received of H. Dalton Treas'
Three thousand nine 47/100 Dolls
being for bal.ce due Easton Branch
R.R.Co Dec 1. 1860 - for Pass.e Traffic
$3009.47/100
Oakes Ames. Pres. E.B.R.R.Co.

Steven Kawalec

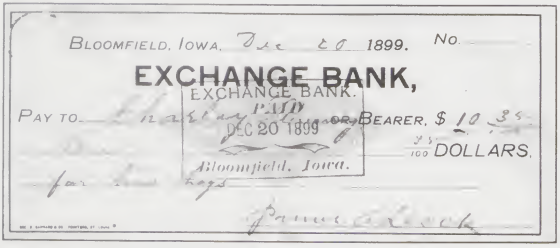
Some Things that Passed for Checks

by Bob Hohertz

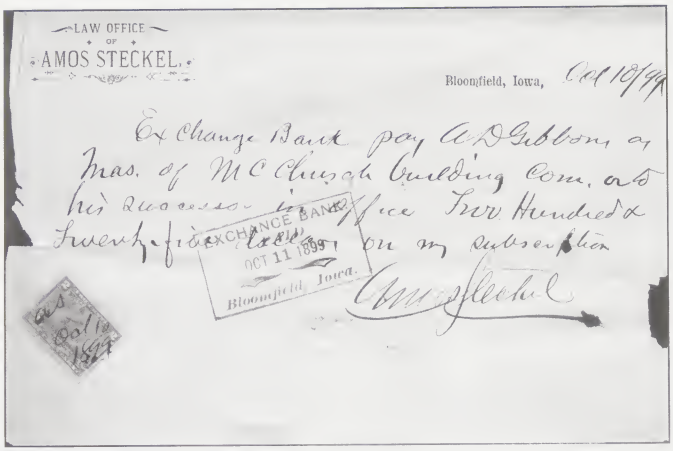
There was an interesting pattern of informality where the customers, and perhaps the bank officials themselves were concerned at the turn of the last century in the vicinity of Bloomfield, Iowa. The Exchange Bank of Bloomfield apparently accepted holographic checks written on tablet paper scraps, invoices, and letterheads by prominent citizens of the town.



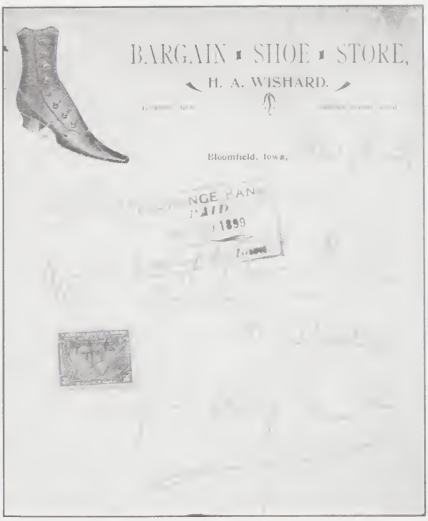
On April 11, 1899, L. J. Tutwiler, Carpenter, Contractor and Builder, directed Steckle and Sons to pay to L. T. Hatton the sum of sixty dollars using a sheet of notepaper that served as a receipt as well. The 'check' was honored at the Exchange Bank, which presumably was the alter ego of 'Steckle and Sons.'



The bank did deal with regular checks as well. Here is one, with an imprinted RN X7 revenue.



The Law Office of Amos Steckel dashed off a holographic check to the Exchange Bank for $225 on what looks like a piece of stationery.



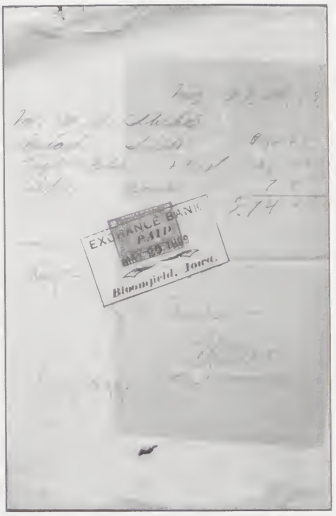
W. J. Steckel, who may well have been President of the Bank or some other official in it, wrote his own holographic checks, including this one on May 27, 1899, paying Mr. Wishard six dollars, presumably for shoes. Note the instruction at the bottom: "King - stamp this."

Mr. W. J. Steckel was paying his clothing bills on May 27. This holographic check, written on a piece of tablet paper, was for the purchase of a "black suite" for $30, a "light blue suite and vest" for $37, and "extra pants" for $7.

Again, "King" was instructed to "Pay to Brinker."

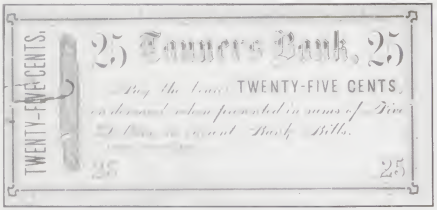
This group of 'checks' included one more from J. J. Tutwiler, one on another piece of lined tablet paper from someone in Drakersville asking Mr. W. J. Steckel to pay Mr. J. Shepperd $2.02 for sawing, and one on a piece of ledger paper also directing Mr. Steckel to pay the sum of $29 for some unspecified reason.

It helps to have a friendly banker - or even, perhaps, to own the bank?



A Find in the Marketplace

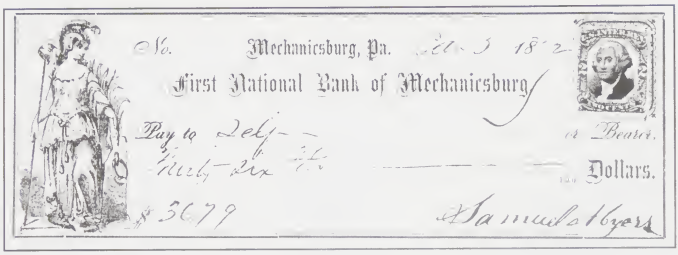
courtesy of Denny Peoples

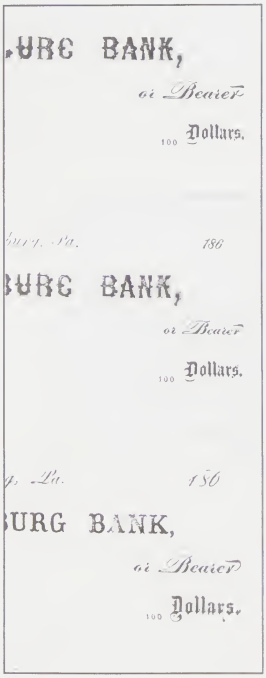


Another what-is-it. Pay twenty-five cents when presented in sums of five dollars in bank bills? Or save up twenty of these coupons, until the sum is five dollars, and then present them? Anyone have any idea what it is?

It's the Back that Matters

by Coleman Leifer





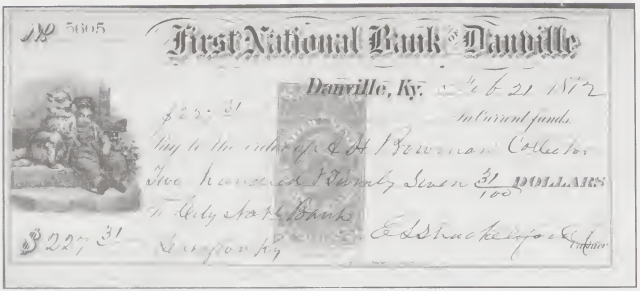
Often the backs of old checks are what makes them interesting. Early checks and drafts were sometimes used as currency and contain several endorsements as the checks passed from hand to hand. The check illustrated here is unusual because it was printed on the back of a sheet of blank checks. Printing on the back of a previously printed sheet of bank notes was a common occurrence in Southern states in order to find a use for obsolete currency issued during the Civil War, but the item illustrated is the only example I have seen of a check printed in this manner.

The checks on the back are presumably from the Bank of Mechanicsburg. The First National Bank of Mechanicsburg, which dates from 1864, was one of the earlier national banks (charter number 380.) The check is also an example of the work of a Civil War-era small town printer.

The checks on the back are in three different settings.

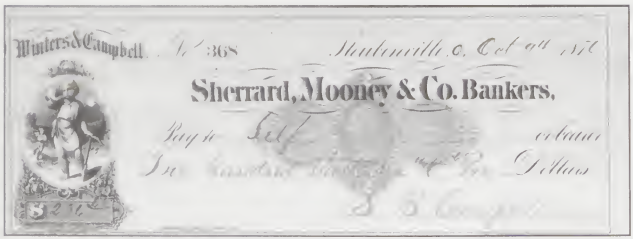
A Nursery Rhyme
(in Checks)

Little Boy, Blue



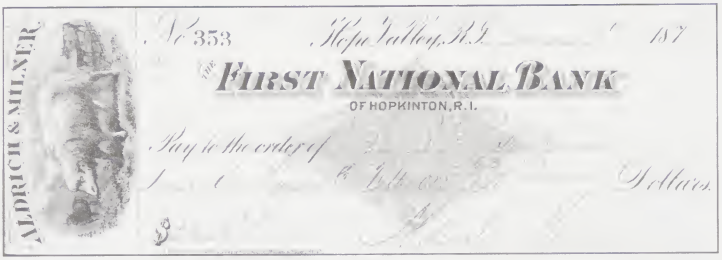
The little boy surely looks blue but he has his faithful dog to comfort him on this draft from the First National Bank of Danville, Kentucky. It bears an RN Type E imprinted revenue with the legend "Good only for sight draft" underneath, and was printed by Wilstach, Baldwin & Co. Stationers, Cincinnati, Ohio.

Come Blow your Horn



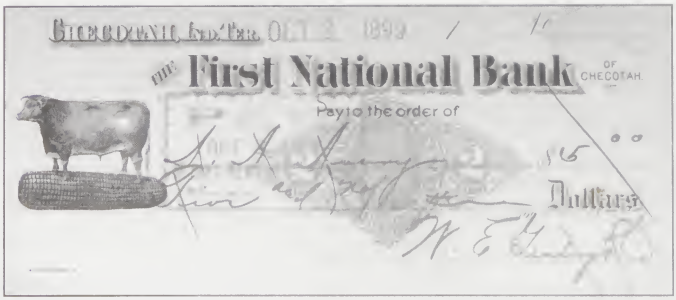
The horn will summon aid on this check from Sherrard, Mooney & Co. Bankers, of Steubenville, Ohio. It bears an RN Type D and was printed by Major & Knapp of New York.

The Sheep's in the Meadow



This sheep grazes on an Aldrich & Milner check written on the First National Bank of Hopkinton, Rhode Island. It was printed in the mid-1870's by Henry Seibert & Bro when they were at the corner of William and Spruce in New York City. By the end of the decade similar checks were being printed by Empire Lith & Engr. Co. also of New York, but by the beginning of the 1880's Seibert & Bro again had the account. The checks with 188 on the dateline were done when Seibert was at a Warren Street address. All bear RN Type G.

The Cow's ~~in~~ on the Corn



The cow stands proudly on the corn on this check from Checotah, Indian Territory, written in 1899 and bearing the Spanish-American War tax RN X7. It was printed by Hall Lithographing Company of Topeka, Kansas. The check was furnished for this exercise by Hermann Ivester.

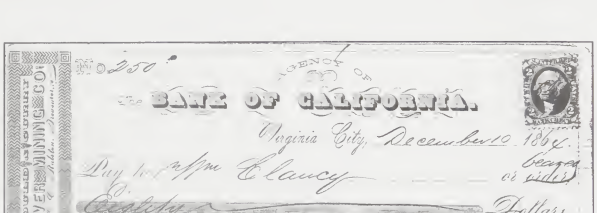
Can anyone else illustrate a rhyme using check vignettes? It's fun on a rainy day. And if you do it, please share it with the other members of ASCC.

Letter to the Editor

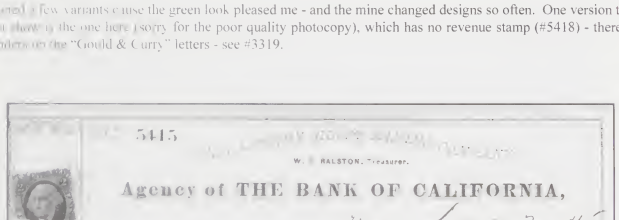
Dear Mr. Hohertz:

Enjoyed yours in the latest Check Collector on the Gould & Curry. Congrats for having a stock without the hole in Mount Davidson; yours is the first I have seen without it…

Sometime back, Doug McDonald sold me the 1864 check you noted; at #250, I'd place #1 no earlier than December 1.



I collected a few variants since the green look pleased me - and the mine changed designs so often. One version that you did not show is the one here (sorry for the poor quality photocopy), which has no revenue stamp (#5418) - there are no descenders on the "Gould & Curry" letters - see #3319.



[Editor's note: I agreed that Mr. Chandler's photocopy of the check with no descenders on the letters making up 'Gould & Curry Silver Mine' was difficult to reproduce. When I saw this one in Vern Potter's stock at the Memphis Paper Money Show I added it to my collection, purely to improve the quality of the illustration in *The Check Collector*, of course.]

Thought you'd get a kick out of the January letter:

San Francisco 12th Janry 1865

pr Str. Sacramento

Andrew Cochran Esq
New York *Dear Sir.*

Yours of 9th Decr came to hand upon the 6th inst. and agreeable to your request we now enclose our Certificate No 3149 for Eight shares Gould & Curry Silver Mining Company in your name We have ordered the Dividends hereafter to be paid in New York.

We collected the December dividend of $75 pr foot and now enclose you our draft on A A Low & Brothers in gold for One hundred forty four 32/100 Dollars, which is amount due as follows -

Dividends		*$150 ___*
Com'n 1½%	*2.25*	
Exchange 2%	*2.89*	
Stamps on stock exchange	*.29*	
Postage	*.25*	*5.68*
		$144.32

We were pleased to learn that you were satisfied with our action for you here and trust that should occasion require you will make use of us again.

The stock of the Gould & Curry Mine is now about $1480 pr foot - what course it will take appears to us depend(s) entirely upon whether they will find new leads of good ore in their claim. We have here many unreliable reports started no doubt to inflate or depress the Stock.

We remain
Very Respectfully
C. Adolph Low & Co.

Regards,
Robert J. Chandler

[Mr. Chandler also enclosed a copy of part of an article from the San Francisco Bulletin dated March 29, 1865, which is quoted below.]

San Francisco Bulletin 3/29/65

Gould and Curry has been steady but inactive: 21(?) feet were sold declining from $1,900 to $1,875, rallying to $1,960, and closing at $1,950 bid, and $1,970 asked. Thus far this claim has been the favorite of Eastern capitalists who now hold a large proportion of the stock, and are still buying. Receipts of bullion are up to the usual average of the past few months and the regular dividend of $75 per foot will be declared for this month.

The Fifth Annual Strasburg Paper Money Collector's Show will be held at the Historic Strasburg Inn, Route 896, Strasburg, PA from Thursday, September 15 until Sunday, September 17. The show is open to the public from 2:00 to 6:00 pm on Thursday for an entry fee of $25, which will be donated to charity. There is no charge for Friday through Sunday, when the hours are 10:00 am to 6:00 pm Friday and Saturday, and 10:00 am to 2:00 pm on Sunday.

A meeting of the ASCC will be held on Saturday the 16th, at 2:00 pm. John Wilson will chair it. Please consult the show program for room location.

Letter to the Editor

Dear Bob,

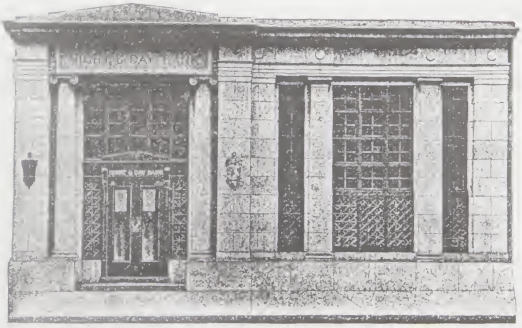
Enclosed are copies of some checks from the Night and Day Bank in Saint Louis and an ad from the city directory. This may answer Jerry Boone's question. Then again, maybe it won't.

Sincerely,
Ron Horstman

NIGHT & DAY BANK

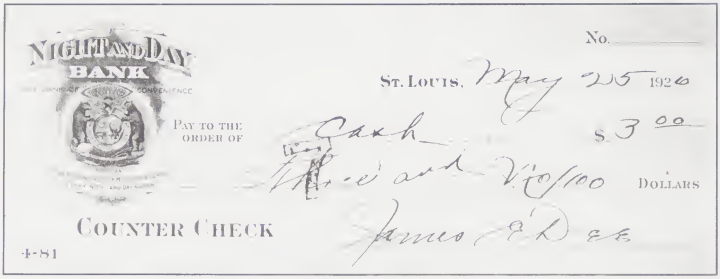
The Bank of Convenience

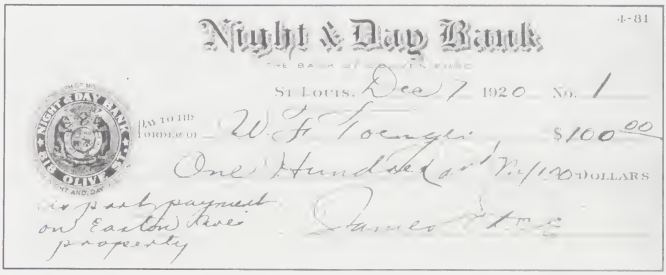
818 OLIVE STREET ST. LOUIS, MO.

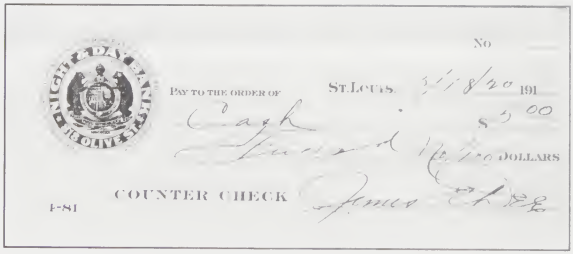


Capital and Surplus, $250,000 **Deposits, $3,300,000**

Only Bank in Which the Banking and Safe Departments Are Open from 9 a. m. to 9 p. m. Daily; Saturdays, 10 p. m.



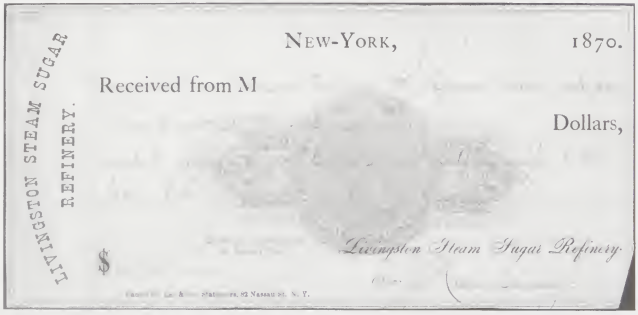




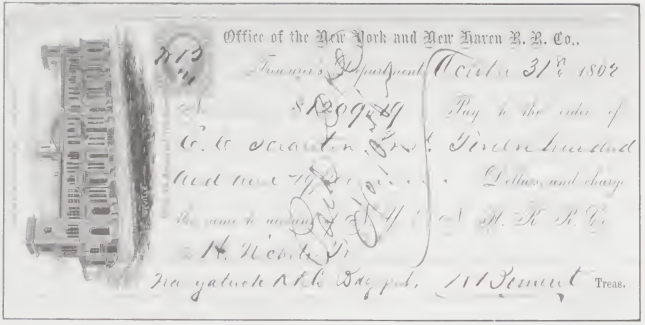
Three checks from a Night and Day Bank.

Finds from the Memphis Paper Money Show

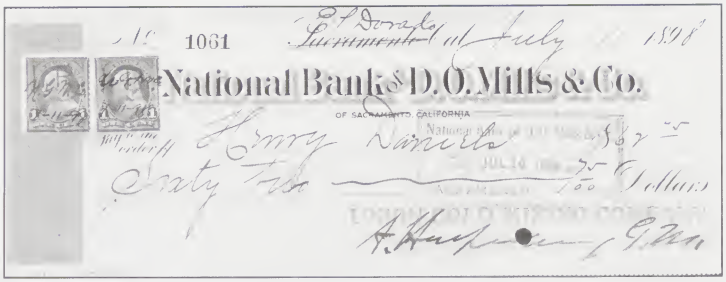
The large regional Paper Money Shows are always a good source of checks and other fiscal documents. The following items are in the nature of a show-and-tell of finds from the Memphis show in late June.



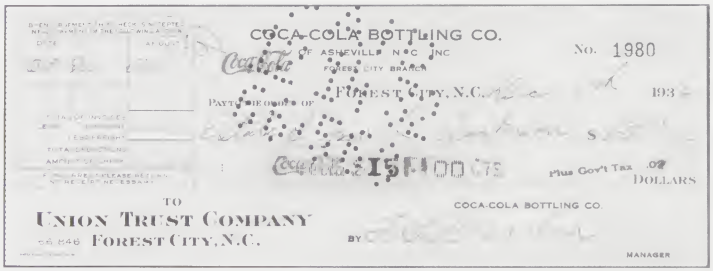
First a receipt from the Livingston Steam Sugar Refinery of New York bearing an imprinted revenue type RN C16, with the extra wording "Good only for Receipt for Money Paid" below and to the left of the imprint. This particular user was not listed in Lindsted or Costenholz in *TCC* Number 48.


Office of the New York and New Haven R. R. Co.,
Treasurer's Department, October 31st 1862
$1209.49
Pay to the order of
Dollars and charge
Treas.

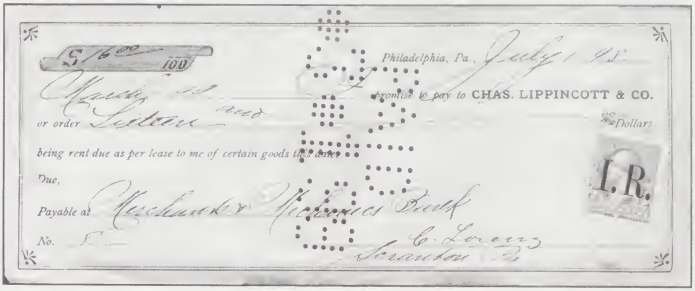
Next is a draft of the office of the New York and New Haven Railroad Company, written on October 31, 1862 and stamped with an orange first issue bank check revenue. These stamps had been in use only since the first of the month. Mike Mahler wrote on their early uses in *TCC* 33 and later updated his inventory in the March 1977 *American Revenuer*. A draft from this source does not appear in either listing. This one is quite attractive, besides.



Next is a check altered from Sacramento to ElDorado, California, for use by the Union Gold Mining Company on July 11, 1898. The Spanish American War tax on checks was very new at that time, and the user paid it with two of the one cent sans-serif IR overprint revenue stamps. These are quite rare on document, and are believed to have been used only in Northern California, although use in Little Rock, Arkansas, was demonstrated in *TCC* 46.



This is a colorful Coca Cola check which has a bank handstamp indicating that the two cent tax levied by the Revenue Act of 1932 had been paid. (See page 25 for another example.)



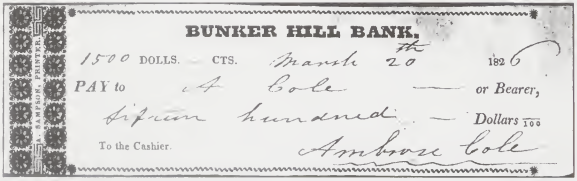
Finally, a promissory note issued on the first day of the Spanish American War tax, stamped with a two-cent IR overprint revenue. First day checks and drafts are found more often than usages of this sort.

Letter to the Editor

Dear Mr. Hohertz

I enjoy the Club paper, "The Check Collector." As you can see from my number 128, I have been a member for a long time. Keep up the good work.

Enclosed are some Xeroxes of very early checks in my collection. I think the one to the Bunker Hill Bank in the amount of $1500 very interesting. In 1826 that amount of money must have been tremendous. I wonder what that would equal today. Any ideas? [None at all - sorry!]



BUNKER HILL BANK,

1500 DOLLS. — CTS. Boston 20 182 6

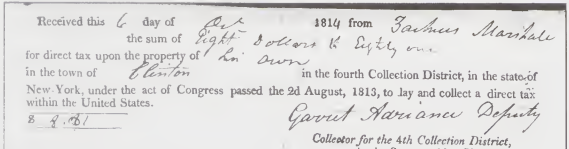
PAY to A. Cole — or Bearer,

fifteen hundred — Dollars 100

To the Cashier. Ambrose Cole

May be you could write a short paragraph on those early checks. The two other Xeroxes are of items that were on pages I had bank checks on, so I'm just sending them along as interesting items. I hope these may be of interest to other collectors.

Sincerely,
Geo. W. Aschenbrenner



Received this 6 day of Oct 1814 from Zachus Marshale

the sum of Eight Dollars & Fifty cts.

for direct tax upon the property of his own

in the town of Clinton in the fourth Collection District, in the state of New-York, under the act of Congress passed the 2d August, 1813, to lay and collect a direct tax within the United States.

8 50/100

Garret Adriance Deputy

Collector for the 4th Collection District, in the State of New-York.

[Actually, the item I found most interesting was one of the two that were included because it was on the same page as one of the checks. It is a property tax receipt from the Collector for the 4th Collection District of the State of New York which cites the Act of Congress that was responsible. Many, if not all, of us who live in the United States pay state property taxes, but probably shudder at the idea of such a federal tax. - Editor]

Celebrity Checks

by

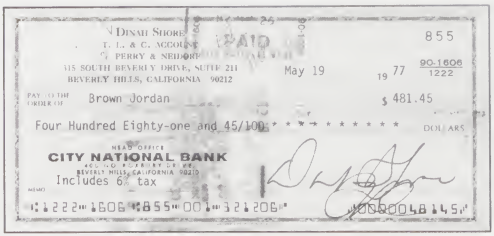
Lance Campbell

Prior to her death in 1994, Dinah Shore was widely known for being the host of the Dinah Shore Classic, a major Ladies Professional Golf Association (LPGA) tournament. But prior to her role in hosting women's golf tournaments, Dinah was noted for her charm, distinctive voice, and longevity in show business. Born in Winchester, Tennessee, in 1917, Dinah Shore moved to New York City in the 1930s. In the early 1940s she performed regularly on a number of radio programs, and by 1943 she had a radio show of her own. During World War II Dinah became popular entertaining military troops. During her career as a popular singer and television performer, she recorded more than 70 hit songs.

Dinah Shore began working in TV with "The Dinah Shore Show" in 1951. The popular show was broadcast twice a week through 1957. She later hosted a prime-time variety series, "The Dinah Shore Chevy Show" which aired from 1956 to 1963. From 1970 to 1974 she hosted a daily talk show, "Dinah's Place," which later became the syndicated series "Dinah!" She always blew her trademark kiss to the audience at the end of each program. Always down-to-earth and unpretentious, Dinah never seemed smitten with Hollywood stardom, and appeared in only a handful of films during her career. Her most memorable starring movie roles were in *Thank Your Lucky Stars* (1943), *Follow the Boys* (1944), and *Till the Clouds Roll By* (1946).

She was married to actor George Montgomery and professional tennis player Maurice F. Smith. However, she may have been most noted for her six-year romance with Burt Reynolds, who was twenty years her junior.

The illustrated check, dated May 19, 1977, was made out to Brown Jordan for $481.45. Her checking account was maintained at the City National Bank in Beverly Hills, California.



Announcements

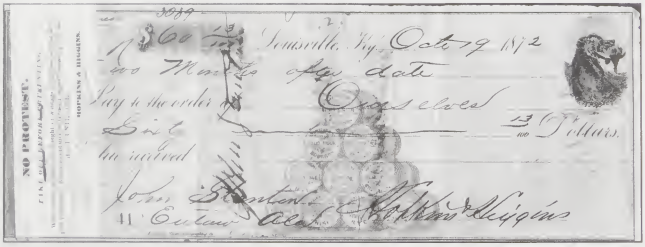
Magazine. You may notice that there are few real articles in this issue. I have had to patch it together out of short articles by others and things I put together myself. I can't keep doing this and produce a magazine worthy of our organization. If nothing shows up for the July-September issue it may take a differnt form, or consist of significantly fewer pages.

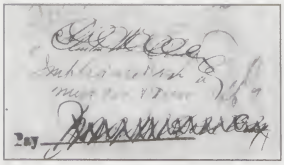
There is nothing in this issue concerning stocks or bonds. When Martha Cox surveyed the membership there was enough interest in them for her to promise that there would be at least one article per issue on these instruments. There will be, if anyone will write them.

Checkpool. Phil Ryman said that checkpool activity had dropped off to zero in May. Such activity is likely to run in cycles, but we do need donations. Please look to see what you have that you no longer need.

Raffle. Don't forget that you have until August first to spend a dollar for a chance to own the autograph of golfing legend Arnold Palmer. Or take several chances. Proceeds go to the ASCC. Send your dollars to Phil Ryman at his address on page 3.

Here is an interesting draft from my collection:





This time draft was written to themselves by Hopkins and Higgins, a Louisville distiller. It is decorated with a dog retrieving a game bird and barrels of their products: Nelson Bourbon, Old Buck Bourbon, Old Stock Bourbon, Challenge Rye, Diana Bourbon, Old Pet Bourbon, Favorite Rye, White Heat Whisky, Choice Rye, and Galt House Bourbon. However, the back of this draft contains something as interesting as the front.

There are at least five signatures on the back, none of which are dated, so the instrument must have passed from hand to hand like currency. Most are scribbled through, and under one is a pencil notation: "Implicated in a murder & run off."

Who said that check collecting was a genteel hobby?

Secretary's Report
Coleman Leifer

This report includes changes received through June 12, 2000

NEW MEMBERS

1684	FINK, GEORGE J. PO Box 241 Camden DE 19934 (thru SPMC - Paper Money Magazine)	2 (Orange Co. NY), 4 (C/D - NY), 12 (Bankers Acceptances -Brown Bros-Harriman, 21 (robber barons), 23 (Orange Co. NY), 32 (Philippines)
1685	HORST, RICHARD L. (C/D) 570 Big Valley Drive Colorado Springs CO 80919 (by Lyman Hensley)	1, 2 (Western States), 4, 21, 30-31
1687	MARSH, DAVID (C/D) RD 2, Box 103M Ligonier PA 15658 (by Bob Kluge)	20, 30
1686	SHERWOOD, KEVIN D. (C/D) 770 Post Rd Darien CT 06820 (by Coleman Leifer)	2 (CT with adhesive or imprinted revenues), 20, 30, 31
1688	WIENER, MARTIN D. 157 South Street Chestnut Hill MA 02467 (from book "Secrets of Rich and Famous")	20, 21, 30

ADDRESS CHANGES

1398 ANTHONY, RAY (D) Box 157 Roseburg OR 97470
1168 KRULIK, STEVE (C/D) PO Box 753 Bowie MD 20718-0753
1569 MALOY, KEVIN V 500 W. Schulte Rd, Tracy, CA 95376-9178

A Find in the Marketplace
courtesy of Hermann Ivester

This check was signed by George "Highpockets" Kelly, a member of the Baseball Hall of Fame. According to the National Baseball Hall of Fame website, http://baseballhalloffame.org/hofers_and_honorees/hofer_bios/kelly_george.htm, he still shares a National League record of hitting seven home runs in six consecutive games and holds several others. He was born in 1895 in San Francisco and died in 1984 in Burlingame, California.

Kelly's check was taxed under the Revenue Act of 1932. Banks were required to collect and remit this tax, and a number of them chose to remind their account holders to deduct the extra two cents by using some sort of rubber stamp on the face of each check. This is one of the more elaborate versions. The following is stamped in purple on the upper left portion of the check: "United States check tax of two cents has been paid on this check and deducted from your account."

Member Exchange

Travelers checks wanted. Let me know what you have for sale/trade. Also wanted, David Keable 1984 book(s) on the subject. **Roland Prajoux**, 5 Residence Les Chaumes, 31520 Ramonville, France. E-mail prajoux@laas.fr.

Wanted: RN-type checks and drafts. Will trade US Revenues, First Issue. Have many good items to offer. **Joseph Garsick**, 8-C Maine Ct., Matawan, NJ 07747.

Wanted: Checks, letters, photos or even plain signatures by anyone famous. **Steve Koschal**, POB 1581, Boynton Beach, FL 33425. Phone 561-736-8409.

Wanted: Pre-1883 checks/drafts with revenue stamps or imprints. Describe fully, include best price. Will also trade duplicate RNs. **Steve Willock**, PO Box 35070, Tucson, AZ 85740.

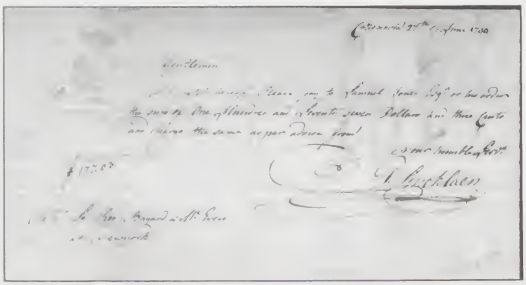
New member seeks any paper items from the Standard Arms Co. and Standard Arms Mfg. Co. (Wilmington, DE 1909-1914) - probably Wilmington Trust Co. bank items. Also Orange County, NY Checks, CD's and related. **George J. Fink**, PO Box 241, Camden, DE 19934.

Collector of Missouri checks looking to trade and correspond with other collectors of Missouri financial paper. **Gregg Voss**, 13 Roland Ave., Ballwin, MO 63021. Phone 314-230-9274.

Exchange postings will be taken from ASCC members who are collectors only. Postings of 20 words or less are free; please remit $2 each issue for postings of 21 to fifty words. Name and address do **not** count toward the 20 words.

Neither the Editor nor the ASCC can be responsible for compliance with any promises made in postings, or in response to them. Be very clear as to the value you place on your material when discussing a trade. Fairness and common courtesy are to be expected, but common sense must rule.

A Find in the Marketplace



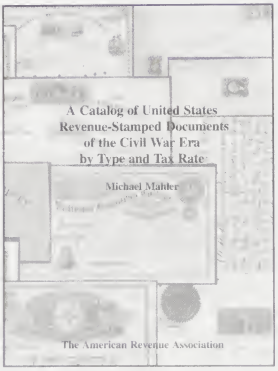
Most documents bearing the lower values of embossed revenue stamps from the early days of the United States are promissory notes. This one, taxed ten cents in the state of New York, is a sight draft written in Cazenovia on the 27th of June, 1799.

Book Review

A Catalog of United States Revenue-Stamped Documents of the Civil War Era by Type and Tax Rate

Michael Mahler

This is a 9x12" hardbound book of 302 pages packed with illustrations, eight pages of which are in color. Michael discusses all of the different classes of documents which were taxed from 1862 to 1883, showing examples where any are known. Many of the illustrations are of the more unusual usages, rarer stamps, and just plain attractive documents. The text points out why each is of interest, as well as affording a general discussion of the nature of the tax on each type of document and how the rates varied as tax laws changed. There are indicators of scarcity provided, and a separate enclosure giving suggested 1999/2000 retail values for generic documents. (The suggested value of a plain check with a two-cent tax stamp is $1.)



The book is an example of the excellent job we have come to expect from Michael, and would be a useful reference for anyone who collects Civil War Era checks, bonds, stocks, or documents in general. It is available from the American Revenue Association, Box 56, Rockford, IA 50468-0056, and I have seen it advertised by philatelic literature dealers. The cost from the ARA is $45 postpaid, and ARA members are given a discount of 20%.

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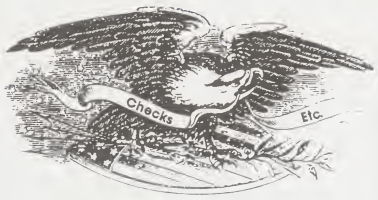

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